

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 5, 2003

IN RE:

**PETITION OF CHATTANOOGA GAS CO.,
NASHVILLE GAS CO., A DIVISION OF
PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS CO., INC. AND
UNITED CITIES GAS CO., A DIVISION OF
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR A
DECLARATORY RULING REGARDING
THE COLLECTIBILITY OF THE GAS
COST PORTION OF UNCOLLECTABLE
ACCOUNTS UNDER THE PURCHASE GAS
ADJUSTMENT ("PGA") RULES**

**DOCKET NO.
03-00209**

**ORDER CONVENING A CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDING, GRANTING
INTERVENTION AND APPOINTING A PRE-HEARING OFFICER**

This matter came before Director Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on April 24, 2003 for consideration of a Petition filed by Chattanooga Gas Company, Nashville Gas Company, a Division of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. and United Cities Gas Company, a Division of Atmos Energy Corporation, on March 17, 2003. The Petition requests, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-5-223 and 65-2-104 and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1220-1-2-.05, a declaratory ruling regarding the collectibility of the gas cost portion of uncollectable accounts under the Authority's Purchased Gas Adjustment ("PGA") Rules.¹ On April 21, 2003, the Consumer

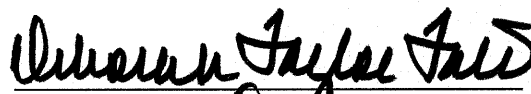
¹ Tenn. Comp. R. & Reg. 1220-4-7-.01 *et seq.*

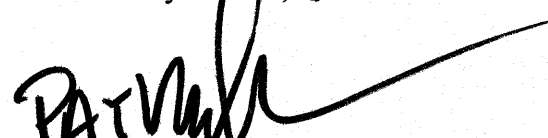
Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate") filed a *Petition to Intervene* in this matter.

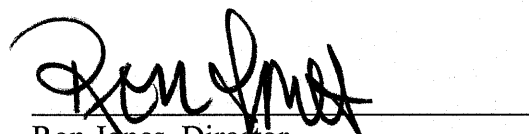
During the April 24, 2003 Authority Conference, the panel voted unanimously to convene a contested case proceeding in this matter, grant intervention to the Consumer Advocate and appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as the Pre-Hearing Officer in this proceeding to hear preliminary matters prior to the Hearing, to rule on any petition(s) for intervention, and to set a procedural schedule to completion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. A contested case proceeding is hereby convened;
2. The Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General is granted leave to intervene and receive copies of any notices, orders or other documents in this matter;
3. The General Counsel or his designee is appointed Pre-Hearing Officer in this matter to hear preliminary matters prior to the Hearing, to rule on any petition(s) for intervention, and to set a procedural schedule to completion.


Deborah Taylor Tate, Director


Pat Miller, Director


Ron Jones, Director